

MARVEL

22

LGY#748

DONNY CATES
NIC KLEIN
MATT WILSON

THOR



GOD OF HAMMERS
Part 4

2011



IF YOU
WISH TO LEAVE,
NOW IS THE
TIME.

IF YOU
CHOOSE TO
STAY...SAY
A PRAYER
TO WHATEVER
GOD WOULD
KEEP IT.

ONE
WAY...OR
ANOTHER...

...THIS
WILL END IN
BLOOD.



"MANY OF YOU KNOW ME. ALL OF YOU HAVE NO DOUBT HEARD TELL OF ME. IF NOT, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BETA RAY-GUN DOES NOT CALL UPON YOU LIGHTLY."

"AS ASGARD'S MASTER OF WAR, I HAVE PLEDGED AN OATH TO PROTECT THIS AND EVERY REALM AND BRANCH OF THE WORLD TREE UNTIL IT WITHERS AND ROTS TO NOTHING."

"AND I SAY THIS: TODAY... SHALL NOT BE THAT DAY."

"NOT WHILE I STAND."

"STAY AT MY BACK. DO AS I SAY. DO NOT HESITATE."

"WE MOVE AS ONE. STRIKE AND KILL AS ONE. WE MOVE WITHOUT FEAR."

"WE DO NOT YIELD. WE DO NOT TIRE."

"OR FALL."

"TODAY, WE END THIS..."

TODAY...
THE THUNDER DIES!

"POISONED BY SOME GREAT AND DESTRUCTIVE EVIL."

"MJOLNIR, THE MIGHTY HAMMER OF OUR KING AND BROTHER THOR, HAS BEEN... COMPROMISED."

"IT HAS ALREADY SLAUGHTERED THE DWARVES OF NIDAVELLIR. ALREADY DECIMATED THIS LAND OF BROXTON, OKLAHOMA."

"ODIN HAS FALLEN. THOR..."

"THOR NEEDS US. ALL OF US."

"THE SITUATION AT HAND IS GRAVE."

THOR

THOR IS THE GOD OF THUNDER AND ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD.

OF LATE, HE HAS HAD TROUBLE WITH HIS HAMMER, MJOLNIR. WHEN THE HAMMER WENT MISSING ENTIRELY, THOR GREW TROUBLED BY A PROPHECY THAT A "GOD OF HAMMERS" WOULD KILL THE KING OF ASGARD WITH MJOLNIR. HE AND HIS FATHER, ODIN, WENT IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS, BUT INSTEAD THEY FOUND ONLY DEATH—BROUGHT ABOUT BY NONE OTHER THAN A PERSONIFIED MJOLNIR HERSELF.

FUELED BY THE RAGE OF THE MANGOG, SHE CONFRONTED THOR IN THE RUINS OF THE MIDGARD TOWN OF BROXTON TO ENACT VIOLENT RETRIBUTION AGAINST THOR FOR ABANDONING HIS ROLE AS ASGARD'S WARRIOR. WITH ODIN DOWNED, THOR'S ODDS OF WINNING AGAINST HIS OWN WEAPON AREN'T LOOKING GREAT...

"GOD OF HAMMERS"

PART FOUR OF FIVE

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BROXTON.



SO
THAT'S IT,
IS IT?



UMF!



YOU'VE BEEN
POSSESSED? BY
THE MANGOG...

WELL...
YOU'VE COME TO
THE RIGHT PLACE,
MJOLNIR.

I CAN
HELP YOU...



LET ME
BEAT THE
DEMON OUT
OF YOU.



≠SIGH≠
NOT
POSSESSED...
NO.

JOINED.
INTERWINED...

I AM...
AWAKE, THOR.
I HAVE BEEN
GIVEN A
VOICE.



AND
THIS...

...ALL OF THIS
DEATH...THIS
MAYHEM...THIS...
SUFFERING...

...THIS
IS WHAT YOU
HAVE TO
SAY?

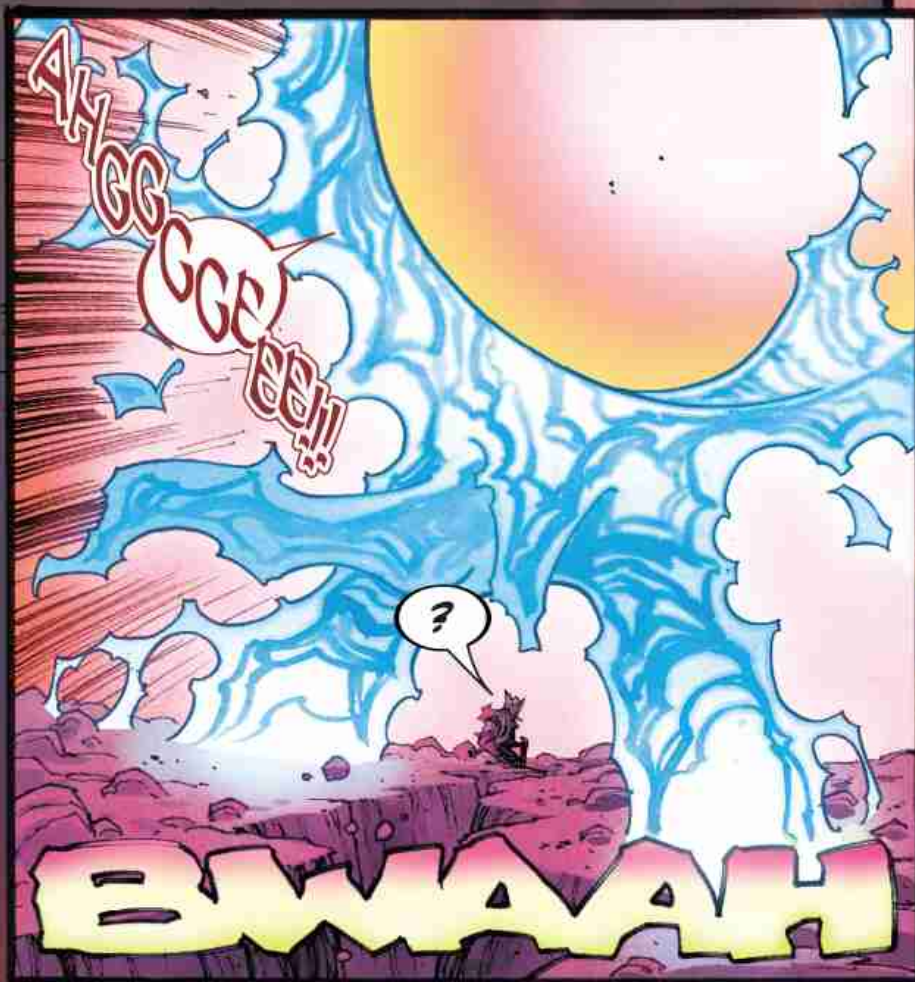
WELL...
HOW DOES
THE SAYING
GO?

WHEN ALL
YOU HAVE IS A
HAMMER...

FATHER!!!

AGH!!!

SIF!
QUICKLY! WE
NEED--









"GRANT ME YOUR GIFTS..."







OKAY...

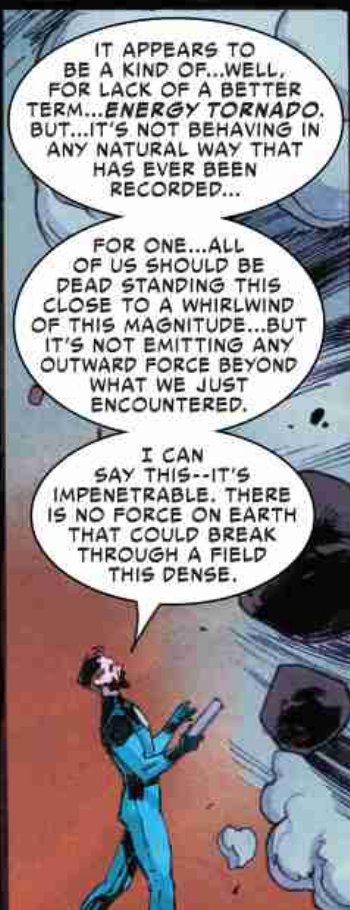


...ANYONE HAVE A CLUE AS TO WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?!

IT APPEARS TO BE A KIND OF...WELL, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM...**ENERGY TORNADO**. BUT...IT'S NOT BEHAVING IN ANY NATURAL WAY THAT HAS EVER BEEN RECORDED...

FOR ONE...ALL OF US SHOULD BE DEAD STANDING THIS CLOSE TO A WHIRLWIND OF THIS MAGNITUDE...BUT IT'S NOT EMITTING ANY OUTWARD FORCE BEYOND WHAT WE JUST ENCOUNTERED.

I CAN SAY THIS--IT'S IMPENETRABLE. THERE IS NO FORCE ON EARTH THAT COULD BREAK THROUGH A FIELD THIS DENSE.



I DON'T GET IT. THIS MANGOG THING... THAT...HAMMER LADY... SHE SEEMED PRETTY INTO THE WHOLE "KILLING US" THING. WHY LOCK US OUT?

MJOLNIR DID NOT DO THIS...



THOR DID. TO PROTECT US.

BUT FREYJA, THIS ENERGY FIELD...WITHOUT HIS HAMMER, HOW COULD THOR--?

HE IS MORE THAN A HAMMER. HE IS A CHILD OF MIDGARD.

I RAISED HIM, BUT HIS BIRTH MOTHER IS GAEA HERSELF.



MJOLNIR MAY REBEL AGAINST THOR...



"...BUT THE
EARTH BENDS
ITS KNEE."

LOOK
AT YOU...

PUTTING
OTHERS BEFORE
YOURSELF.
I'M...

...I'M SO
VERY PROUD
OF THIS MAN
YOU HAVE
BECOME.

THEN
WHY?

WHY DO YOU
DO THIS? WHY
HAVE YOU KILLED
SO MANY IN
MY NAME...?

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!



I USED TO
BLEED ACROSS
THE STARS, THOR.
I WAS...**BEAUTIFUL**.
THE MOTHER STORM.
SHAPELESS, INCANDESCENT
LIGHTS BROKE AND
SCATTERED ACROSS
MY BODY.

I WAS...ALIVE.
I WAS FEARED.
LUMINOUS AND
DREADFUL AND...
FREE.

YOUR FATHER
TRAPPED ME.
EONS AGO...



HE USED ME.
ENCHANTED ME!
TREATED ME LIKE
I WAS A TOY. IT
TOOK SO
LONG...

...BUT
THE MANGOG
OPENED MY
EYES.

HE'S
ANOTHER OF
YOUR FATHER'S
SINS, YOU
KNOW...

HE TAUGHT
ME THAT THE
GODS DESERVE A
RECKONING FOR
THESE GAMES
THAT THEY
PLAY.



AND SO...
WE BEGAN...TO
UNRAVEL THEM. ALL
OF ODIN'S LITTLE...
TOYS. WE BEGAN
TO BREAK
THEM.

TO
SET THEM
FREE...



no!!!
move!!!

AGHHH!!!



THOR!

FATHER!





ALL OF THEM...

...EXCEPT YOU.



YOU...

...YOU ARE THE GREATEST THING I HAVE EVER MADE, THOR.

FATHER...



BUT...BUT I HAVE BEEN SELFISH...

WHEN YOU TOOK THE THRONE... I...



I HAD SO MUCH MORE I WANTED TO DO.

I WANTED YOUR MOTHER TO...SEE ME. TO SEE ME AGAIN...

...I WANTED TO BE STRONG. AND SO...I HELD BACK...



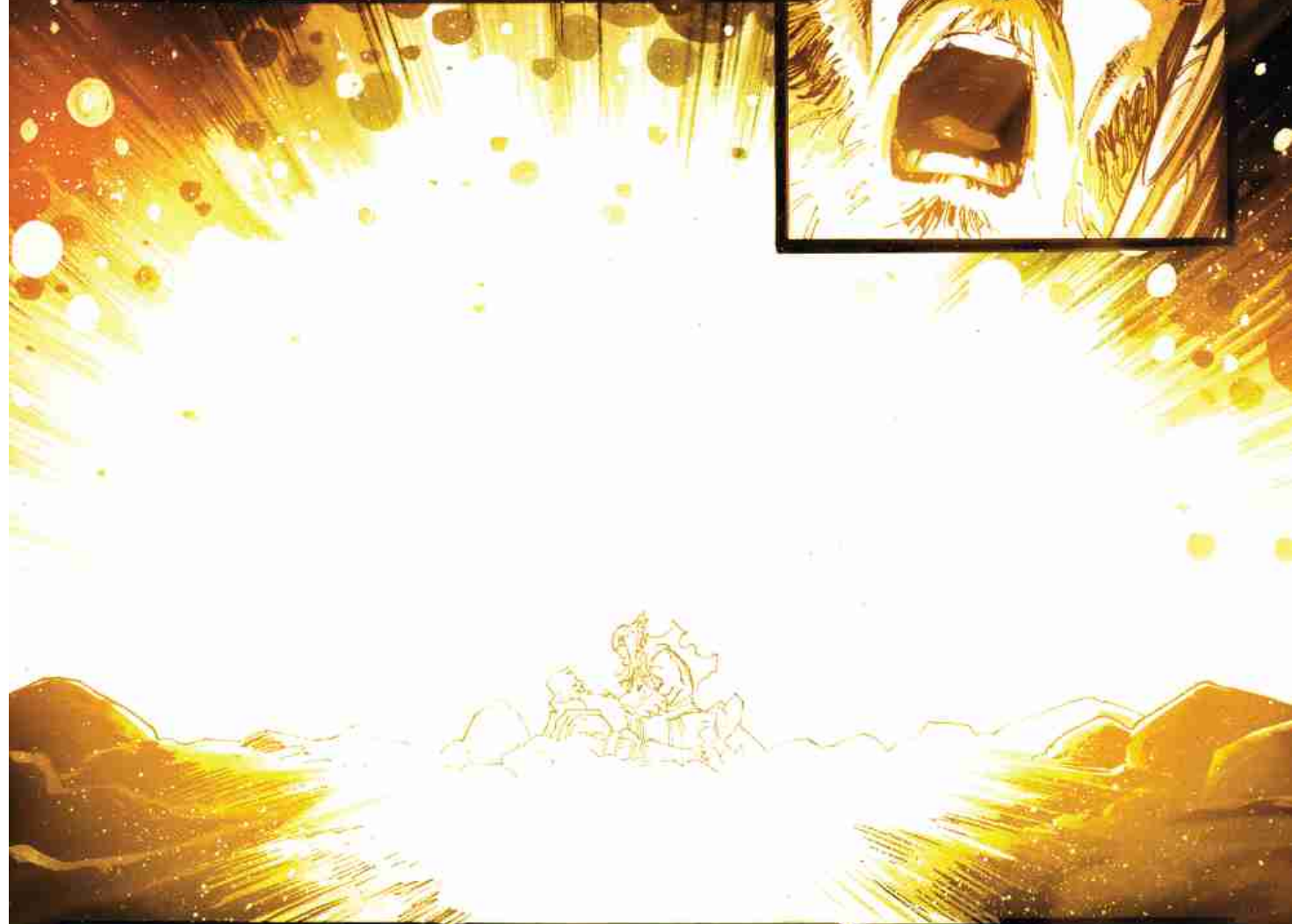
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND...



THE ODIN-FORCE BOY...

IT CANNOT BE GIVEN IN FULL...







NOW
WE PUT
THE HAMMER
DOWN.

TO BE
CONCLUDED!

QUOTH THE RAVENS: THE HUGINN & MUNINN SHOW

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR MISSIVES "OKAY TO PRINT."



Muninn... did we remember to congratulate the mortals for Earth's successful circumnavigation of its sun and the start of their new year?

I don't think we did! Apologies, Midgardians, and sincerest well wishes. May your new year bring joy and fun and treats and—

Aren't you getting a bit carried away there? Yes, we forgot, but it is still just the observation of a full rotation around the sun. Our folly will not hurt them here.

I know, Huginn, but I worry about the humans. The All-Father loves them so, and while he attends to his own trial with this insufferable God of Hammers, I do wonder how they must be feeling.

How soft you've become in your old age! I have some prayers right here—let us find out how you dear mortals are feeling this day...

First of all, the title—"God of Hammers"! You mad people took a joke, ran with it and turned it into something amazing. THOR #19 was fantastic! I've been a huge fan of this entire run so far, but you can clearly see the edge in Thor now that Mjolnir has been stolen. Thor kicking butt and taking names like he did in the arena is something longtime Thor fans have been waiting for, and I have a feeling we're going to see a lot of it in this arc. Nic Klein's art is dynamic and extremely detailed. He never fails to impress. I'm looking forward to the rest of this arc.

Joe Coyle, God of Forks
Tamarac, FL

Mr. Klein most certainly is a masterful artist—I am sure he will be glad to hear your praise! Allow me to thank you in his stead.

Hear, hear—and for the praise of the All-Father as well! That meeting of humor and might you so applaud is one much loved by our King. Though its particular success is due to our skill as messengers, I must say.

Huginn, we cannot take credit for the All-Father's personality! Our duty is to record it, not create it—and we do not record alone!

No, no, of course not! Masters Klein and Cates are delightful and talented scribes. But the tales still wouldn't be half as good without our input.

Hello again, Huginn and Muninn, embodiments of Thought and Memory themselves!

Once again, after reading the recent issues of THOR, I'm excited! I'm really loving where the lore is going. I'm super invested and excited! I mean, Thor's real mom (Freyja, as she herself raised him) is on a gigantic cat with a minigun—that's awesome!

Also, thanks for answering the questions of my previous letter! Enjoyed it! Now, once more, I will ask you more questions:

Do you remember that day, in JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #513, when Odin went to battle with Seth to protect Yggdrasil? They were ripping apart all of the Multiverse as they fought, as stated by Doctor Strange! We're lucky that the former All-Father triumphed in the fight!

And how far does the reach of the World Tree go? Does it encompass abstract concepts and ideas like time and space, order and chaos?

And do you remember that day when Odin hung himself on Yggdrasil for nine days and nine nights with his spear Gungnir piercing his side? That must've hurt! I theorize a day and night would've lasted a billion years in that place, as time works oddly with Yggdrasil, as stated in THE MIGHTY THOR #1 by Matt Fraction. And he must've faced his soul being collapsed and erased on a conceptual level! And yet, he resisted! Oh, I bet that my suspicions be confirmed as true!

And finally, since I keep on speculating... what big, gigantic threats was the Black Winter talking about? These "darker fates" of the universe? Were these caused by the death of Galactus, as he is one of the Cosmic Powers, the Abstracts?

Anyway, thanks again to Donny and co. for an interesting THOR series! I'm also excited that Nic Klein is coming back—his art is just magnificent, amazing, astonishing, spectacular! And the cover looks like Thor is wielding his father's sword, the Odinsword, forged by Odin's bare hands! I'm so HYPED!

Helena Cromwel
San Diego, CA

Oh my—Huginn, one of our truest believers has returned! The number of our tales that you recall, Mistress Cromwel—and with such reverence! I believe I could fly around a few suns on the fuel of such faith.

Mistress Cromwel's knowledge of the All-Fathers' exploits is indeed both extensive and impressive, Muninn. And deeply lacking in inquiries after us and our contributions to such adventures, hmph.

And you say I'm the sensitive one. No matter, Ms. Cromwel, I would be happy to answer your questions. Let's see... why yes, I do remember Odin's defense of Yggdrasil against that horrid Seth! A mighty and respectable battle between two capable warriors, with more dire consequences avoided—to the benefit of us all! A sentiment that perhaps echoes in Odin's quest for knowledge as he had to face himself, and are we not all complicated creatures? The previous All-Father especially so—as you say, it must have hurt! Whether time or experience worked differently for him though, is his to say. While we can confirm that Yggdrasil encompasses, to a degree, the abstract as well as material aspects of the Ten Realms, Odin never did confide to anyone what his specific experiences with the tree were... and so must I keep secret knowledge of the Black Winter. Keep reading, dear mortal, and you may find the answers you seek!

Dear praiseworthy birds Huginn & Muninn,

I'm so sorry you had to see what Sif said about you in issue #17. Should I recap? "Brrr-brrr" Freyja: "Thor, what is—?" Thor: "It is a—they call it a cell phone. Sif grew tired of the ravens, and I..." How dare she?! Who does she think she is saying stuff about my H&M like that? I always thought she was a bit snooty. Well, she'll see the error of her ways when you guys help to find Mjolnir when she can't even see it. Haha! Speaking of issue #18, love the Pet Avengers team-up! You guys gotta watch out for that Lockheed though. He's kind of a scene stealer.

Alan Bowman
Sagamihara City, Japan

Finally, some acknowledgement! Alan Bowman of Japan, you have redeemed yourself in mine eyes! How snooty indeed Sif was that day. As if a cell phone could ever be superior to us ravens—why, she should be so lucky as to have her own personal messengers as the All-Father does.

...Was that not you taking treats from Sif's hand as payment for a local delivery the other day?

Wha—no? Silly Muninn, I—I would never become so distracted from my duties to the All-Father and the Pet Avengers! Ha...next letter!

I began reading THOR back in the #270s quite some time ago and read it religiously for a great many years. Then I stopped.

Over the past few years, I've occasionally gotten pulled back in for a bit, but what I've come to realize is that I really like the freedom of your storytelling now. It's quite good, really good. The characters aren't just developing, they're growing. They're more real. Thanks.

John Woodbury

I think we can take the credit for that—don't you, Muninn? We've quite grown as storytellers over the years!

That is true, Huginn! But so has Thor—he is not the arrogant young boy he was when we first began relaying these tales. I am proud of him too, Master Woodbury. And grateful to you, dear readers, for standing by the All-Father's side! We appreciate you all, new and old friends, and encourage you to continue sending missives—remember to mark them "OKAY TO PRINT!"

NEXT: THE THOR-FORCE!



